

The Bethel Courier.

Volume XX, Number 1

SPRING 1996

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST AS OF MAY 1, 1996

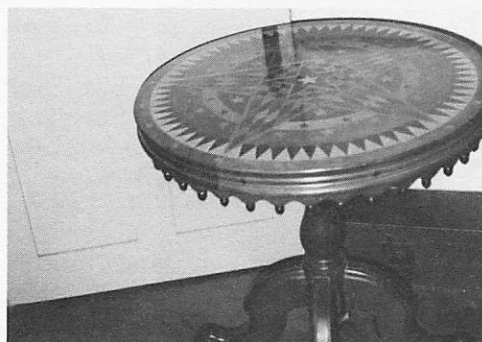
Honorary

Olive Anderson, Newry; Barbara H. Brown, Bethel; Donald Brown, Bethel; Julia Brown, Bethel; Norris Brown, Bethel; Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel; Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Allan Fraser, Bethel; Floribel Haines, Bethel; Florence Hastings, Bethel; Geraldine Howe, Bethel; Rodney Howe, Bethel; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Frederick McMillin, Bethel; Helen Morton, Newry; Persis Post, Bethel; Marguerite Quinn, Norway; Randal Stevens, Bethel; Sarah Stevens, Bethel; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel; Edmond Vachon, Bethel; Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Willard Wight, Newry; Edna York, Bethel

Life

Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Avery Angevine, Bethel; Ernest Angevine, Bethel; Mary Angevine, Bethel; Roland Annis, Jr., Bethel; Laurel Atkinson, Norway; John Balentine, Somersworth, NH; Bradley Barker, Bethel; Judith Barker, Bethel; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; Rep. Alvin Barth, Bethel; N.T. Bartholomaei, LaGrangeville, NY; Dorothy Bartlett, Bethel; Keith Bartlett, Bethel; Otis Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Suzanne Bartlett, Bethel; William Bartlett, Dover-Foxcroft; Kathleen Bean, Bryant Pond; Randall Bennett, Bethel; Francine Bergman, Key Colony, FL; Francis Berry, Bethel; Mary Lou Berry, Bethel; Tamara Billings, Bryant Pond; Jeanne Bletzer, Woodstock, VT; Garret Bonnema, Bethel; Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Florine Bowden, Bethel; Lanny Brent, Springfield, MO; Mary Brent, Springfield, MO; Dorothy Brinck, South Paris; Carolyn Brooks, Bethel; Dale Brouse, Fraser Park, CA; Arlene Brown, Bethel; Arnol Brown, Bethel; Barbara D. Brown, Bethel; Barbara H. Brown, Bethel; Donald Brown, Bethel; John Brown, Bethel; Julia Brown, Bethel; Leland Brown, Bethel; Marie Brown, Bethel; Norris Brown, Bethel; Robert Brown, Hanover; Lois Burgess, Bethel; Sumner Burgess, Bethel; Beatrice Burris, Bethel; Ralph Burris, Bethel; Catherine Bush, Belmont, MA; Richard Bush, Belmont, MA; Donald Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Ina Carey, Framingham, MA; Ann Carlson, Friendship; Jane Carlson, Bethel; Judith Carroll, Gorham, NH; Lee Carroll, Gorham, NH; Earlene Chadbourne, North Saco; Theodore Chadbourne, North Saco; Mary Champe, Rumford Center; Lynda Chandler, Bethel; Stephen Chandler, Bethel; Amy Chapman, Locke Mills; Daphne Chapman, Peabody, MA; Ethel Chapman, Bethel; Donald Christie Gray; Dorothy Christie, Gray; Norman Clanton, Bethel; Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Edith Clemens, Mansfield, OH; Filmore Clough, Bethel; Shirley Clough, Bethel; Isabel Coburn, New Harbor; Howard Cole,

(continued on page 2)



Inlaid tilttop table made by George Turner Silver (1843-1925) received recently as a bequest from the estate of his grandson Robert Silver.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST THIRTY YEARS BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1966-1996

1966--Society founded at a meeting in the Bethel Library

1969--Society founder Eva Bean dies

1971--Society becomes non-profit corporation

1972--Dr. Moses Mason House placed on National Register of Historic Places

1972-73--Dr. Moses Mason House restored by William Bingham II Trust for Charity

1974--Dr. Moses Mason House given to the Society, dedicated, furnished, and opened to the public

Publication of booklet *Dr. Moses Mason and His House*
Special Edition of the Bethel Citizen published to honor the dedication of the Dr. Moses Mason House and the bicentennial of the settlement of Bethel

1975--First Annual Heritage Day held

"Family Farm" exhibit and booklet published with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Microfilming of old newspapers begun with the support of the Maine Arts Commission

Eva Bean Research Room constructed with funds from the William Bingham II Trust for Charity

Society awarded Certificate of Commendation by the American Association for State and Local History for "an effective program of preservation, publications, and education"

1976--Society sponsors "Old Fashioned Fourth" in honor of the nation's bicentennial observance

The Bethel Courier, Society quarterly founded

(continued on page 3)

Bethel; Virginia Cole, Bethel; Eleanor Conary, Gilead; Wilfred Conary, Gilead; Robert Congdon, Islesboro; Bruce Connor, Chelmsford, MA; Gayle Connor, Chelmsford, MA; Eva Conroy, Auburn; Rupert Conroy, Auburn; John Conzelman, Palms Springs, CA; Inez Conzelman, Palm Springs, CA; Margaret Cousins, Bethel; William Cousins, Bethel; Cynthia Cox, Perth, Scotland; Robert Crane, Norway; Suzanne Crane, Norway; Madeleine Dampier, Grainsville, FL; William Dampier, Gainsville, FL; Margaret Davis, Bethel; Pauline Davis, Bethel; Rita Davis, Bethel; Robert Davis, Bethel; Helene Decker, Oxford; Joan Detter, Santa Fe, NM; Patricia Dooen, Bethel; Sharon Dooley, Concord, CA; Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Dana Douglass, Jr., Bethel; Grace Douglass, Bethel; Richard Douglass, Bethel; Francis Dunn, Round Pond; Aline Dupont, Gray; Hugh Durgin, North Waterford; Mariann Durgin, North Waterford; Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Barbara Farinsky, Rolling Hills, CA; Jayne Fife, Salt Lake City, UT; Lincoln Fiske, Sr., Bethel; Suzanne Fiske, Bethel; Thomas Ford, Bethel; Wendy Ford, Bethel; John Fox, Jr., Andover; Julie Fox, Andover; Allan Fraser, Bethel; Doris Fraser, Bethel; Barbara Freeman, Portland; Gordon Gillies, Hebron; Mary Gillies, Hebron; David Glascock, Orlando, FL; Dorothy Glascock, Cedar Falls, IA; Dr. John Glascock, Cedar Falls, IA; Philippa Glines, Bethel; Arthur Gottwald, Arlington, VA; Alice Grady, Acton, MA; Lillian Grant, Gorham; Robert Greenleaf, North Scituate, RI; Harry Grover, Jr., Deerfield, IL; John Grover, Bethel; Rodney Hackwell, North Easton, MA; Peter Haines, Bethel; Carol Hardenbrook, Biddeford; Mary Harris, Naples, FL; Cathy Hart, Bangor; Dr. John Hart, Bangor; Beryl Haskell, New Gloucester; Annie Hastings, Bethel; Euphemia Hastings, West Paris; Florence Hastings, Bethel; Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; Walter Hatch, Bethel; Richard Hathaway, Montpelier, VT; Bruce Hazelton, Cumberland Center; John Head, Bethel; Fumiko Head, Bethel; Rep. Charles Heino, Boothbay; Reona Heino, Boothbay; Pamela Heydon, Wilton, CT; Elizabeth Hines, Brooklin; Dorothea Hitzrot, Topsham; Barbara Honkala, Bethel; Rudolf Honkala, Bethel; Jane Hosterman, West Bethel; Richard Hosterman, West Bethel; Allan Howe, Bethel; Clarence Howe, Bethel; Diane Howe, Bethel; Gabrielle Howe, Rockville, MD; Geraldine Howe, Bethel; Joan Howe, Bethel; John Howe, Severn, MD; John Howe, Vancouver, BC; Rodney Howe, Bethel; Sandra Howe, Severn, MD; Stanley Howe, Bethel; Sue Howe, Bethel; Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel; Harlan Hutchins, Bethel; James Hutchins, Bethel; Alidah Iles, Rumford Center; Dr. Robert Iles, Rumford Center; Betty Jackson, Chapel Hill, NC; Clifton Jackson, Wallingford, CT; Grace Jackson, Wallingford, CT; Charlotte Johnson, Westford, MA; Donald Johnston, Las Vegas, NV; Helen Jones, Sabattus; Robert Jones, Sabattus; Albert Judkins, Peru; Helen Judkins, Farmington; Alice Keddy, Gorham; Eunice Keddy, Plainsville, MA; Ronald Keddy, Plainsville, MA; Royden Keddy, Gorham; Rebecca Kendall, Bethel; Robert Keniston, Bethel; Virginia Keniston, Bethel; Alden Kennett, Bethel; Edward Kennett, Bethel; Mabel Kennett, Bethel; Susan Kettinger, Salem, NH; William H. Keiffer III, Bethel; Christina Anita Kilgore, Nipomo, CA; Roy Kilgore, Nipomo, CA; Gerald Kimball, Gray; Gordon Kimball, Sr., Gray; Dr. Lawrence Kimball, Jr., Newburyport, MA; John King, Lakeland, FL; Margaret King, Lakeland, FL; Roberta Kirmse, Wallingford, CT; James Konkel, Portland; Helen Kraul, Portland; Mary Kushner, West Orange, NJ; Barbara Kuzyk, Bethel; Harry Kuzyk, Bethel; Jean Lamphear,

Riverwoods, IL; Barbara Lapham, Hanover; Dale Lapham, Hanover; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; Kay Larson, Bethel; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Ellen Little, Dover, MA; Stephen Little, Dover, MA; Martha Long, Kingston, NH; Elizabeth Lord, Bethel; Ramona Lowe, Bethel; Arlene Lowell, Bethel; Beatrice Lowell, Newry; Frank Lowell, Sr., Newry; Hugh H. Lynch, Bethel; Elmer Lyons, Hanover; Nancy Lyons, Hanover; Edward MacGibbon, Palatka, FL; Theodore MacGibbon, Palatka, FL; Barbara Mahler, Bethel; Marlene Marshall, Bethel; Martha Martin, Harrison; Dr. Rex Martin, Harrison; Dr. John Mason, Bethel; Lynn Mason-Courtney, Bethel; Tracy Mason, Bethel; Fr. Donald McAllister, Portland; Paul McGuire, Bethel; David McKivergan, Rumford; Grace McKivergan, Rumford; Frederick McMillin, Bethel; John McMillin, South Gardiner; Merrilee McMillin, South Gardiner; Mina McMillin, Bethel; Pearlina McMillin, Bethel; Marguerite McNally, Hampden; Nancy Mercer, Bethel; Marjorie Menzies, Wellesley, MA; Heinie Merrill, Bethel; Sharon Merrill, Bethel; Virginia Merrill, Solon; Burton Mills, Bethel; Lee Mills, Locke Mills; Eva Mills, Bryant Pond; Jeffrey Mills, Mesa, AZ; Mary Mills, Locke Mills; Timothy Mills, South Paris; Marilyn Mollicone, Augusta; Nina Mollicone, Bethel; James Monahan, Gilead; Josephine Monahan, Gilead; Patricia Moon, Denver, CO; Joane Mooney, London, UK; Marcia Moss, Concord, MA; Martha Murphy, South Portland; Vicky Myers, Bethel; David Nichols, Lincolnville; Danna Nickerson, Bethel; George Nickerson, Bethel; George Noll, Bethel; John Nordahl, Bethel; Lucy Nordahl, Bethel; Althea Noyes, Falmouth; Leslie Noyes, Bethel; Nicholas Noyes, Mechanic Falls, Carolyn O'Brien, Bethel; Robert O'Brien, Bethel; Michael O'Donnell, Bethel; Scott Oldakowski, Bethel; Alan Ordway, Bridgton; James Owen, Bethel; Jean Owen, Bethel; Alice Oyler, San Clemente, CA; Robert Parente, Boston, MA; Marilyn Parker, Milford, CT; Jane Payne, Baltimore, MD; Dr. John Payne, Baltimore, MD; Ernest Perkins, Bethel; Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Crawford Perry, Bethel; Therese Perry, Bethel; Roberta Pevear, Rangeley; Jeanette Pingrey, Selah, WA; Richard Pingrey, Selah, WA; Persis Post, Bethel; Fourtin Powell, Rockland; Shirley Powell, Rockland; Betty Prescott, Bangor; Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Sallie Pusey, Haymarket, VA; Wilma Quimby, Raymond, NH; Marguerite Quinn, Norway; Kenneth Ramage, Bethel, Sarah Ramage, Bethel; Richard Raser, Bethel; Elinor Ritchings, Petersburg, VA; Phyllis Roberts, Newcastle; Robert Robertson, Northridge, CA; Margaret Sawyer, Waterford; Mary Schexnayder, New Iberia, LA; Dorothy Schmidt, Augusta; Louise Seames, Locke Mills; Raymond Seames, Locke Mills; Stephen Seames, Worcester, MA; Charles Seashore, Bethel; Edith Seashore, Bethel; Sylvia Sebelist, Waterford; Basil Seguin, Bryant Pond; Irene Sessions, Bethel; Stephen Sessions, Norway; Roxanne Sly, Brooklin; Dorothy Small, Biddeford; Arthur Smith, Bethel; Betty Smith, Bethel; Dr. Charles Smith, Harrison; Elizabeth Smith, Phippsburg; Leslie Smith, Phippsburg; Mary Anne Smith, Harrison; Senator Olympia Snowe, Washington, DC; Helen Staley, Pasadena, MD; Elisabeth Stedman, Ottawa; Robert Stedman, Ottawa; Doris Stevens, Rexford, NY; Joanne Stewart, Portland; Michael Stowell, Lovettsville, VA; Amy Stroud, Victor, MT; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Jai Sullivan, Portland; Douglas Swett, Center Conway, NH; Albert Taylor, Cumberland Center; Dewey Thayer, Bethel; Verna Thayer, Bethel; Dr. Taylor Thompson, Boston, MA; William Throop, Jr., New Canaan, CT; Cheri Thurston, Bethel; Constance Thurston, Bethel; David Thurston, Bethel; Murray Thurston, Bethel; Hope Tibbetts, Bethel;

Warren Tibbetts, Bethel; Edward Tremblay, Hendersonville, NC; Roberta Tremblay, Hendersonville, NC; Dr. John Trinward, North Waterford; Margaret Trinward, North Waterford; Edith Tucker, Randolph, NH; Myrtle Tucker, Dover, MA; Sarah Tucker, Boston, MA; Valerie Uber, Boston, MA; Edmond Vachon, Bethel; Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Doris Valentine, Bethel; Richard Valentine, Bethel; Richard Verville, Westborough, MA; Frank Vogt, Bethel; Janet Vogt, Bethel; James Walker, Crestview, FL; Nancy Wells, Upper Montclair, NJ; Erland Wentzell, West Baldwin; Margaret Wentzell, West Baldwin; Virginia Weston, Rumford Center; William Weston, Rumford Center; Les Whal, Salt Lake City, UT; Elizabeth Whiteman, Elkins Park, PA; Ellen Whitney, Bethel; Muriel Whitney, Bethel; Richard Whitney, Bethel; Nancy Whittier, Falmouth; Joan Wiese, Bethel; Daniel Wight, Rumford; Owen Wight, Newry; Rosalie Wight, Rumford; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Sue Wight, Newry; Sylvia Wight, Newry; Willard Wight, Newry; Priscilla Wiley, Katonah, NY; Ronald Willard, Falls Church, VA; Barbara Wiley, Portsmouth, NH; Waldo Williams, Milan, NH; Dorothy Wilson, Orono; Eleanor Wilson, Bryant Pond; Gloria Wilson, Bethel; Robert Wilson, Shelburne, NH; James Yarnell, Upton; Joy Yarnell, Upton; John York, Lilburn, GA

Benefactor

John Bayerlein, Bethel; Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; Cynthia Chandler, E. Falmouth, MA; Richard Chandler, E. Falmouth, MA; Judy Fraser, Vidalia, GA; Orlando Fraser, Vidalia, GA; Robert Goodwin, Norway; Helen Morton, Newry; Carolyn Nygren, Cambridge, MA; Donna Porter, Beverly, MA

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Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Kenneth Bohr, Bethel; Martha Clark, Portsmouth, NH; Marta Clough, Bethel; William Clough III, Bethel; John Fogarasi, Bulgaria; Mariya Fogarasi, Bulgaria; Robert Foster III, East Boothbay; Dr. James Hudson, North Edgecomb; Patricia Hudson, North Edgecomb; Cathy Newell, Locke Mills; Charles Newell, Locke Mills; Beatrice LaPlante, Damascus, MD; Frederick LaPlante, Damascus, MD; Rev. Clifford Laws, Kittery Point; Elizabeth Laws, Kittery Point; Nancy LeCompte, Lewiston; Dr. Edward Martin, Rumford Point; Terry Martin, Rumford Point; Barry McMennamin, New Canaan, CT; Marilyn McMennamin, New Canaan, CT; Richard Penley, Bethel; Wendy Penley, Bethel; Gordon Schexnayder, New Iberia, PA; John Shorb, Bethel; Deborah Skippon, Thaxton, VA; Nancy Stowell, Bethel; Constance Vautour, West Bethel; Donald Vautour, West Bethel; Jerry Vincent, Bethel; Shireen Vincent, Bethel; Joyce Wanger, Rumford; Dr. William Wanger, Rumford; Anne White, Byfield, MA; Margaret Wight, Bethel; Stephen Wight, Bethel

Contributing

Alan Abbott, Bethel; June Abbott, Bethel; Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; Carolyn Austin, Bennington, VT; Maynard Austin, Bennington, VT; Albert Bartlett, Fresno, CA; Elizabeth Bartlett, Fresno, CA; Donald Bean, Bethel; Karen Bean, Bethel; Fred Bean, Salem, NH; Carl Brooks, West Paris; Donald Brooks, Bethel; Eleanor Brooks, Bethel; Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Norm Buttrick, Freeport; Claudia Chicklas, Ware, MA; Carolyn Colby, Bethel; Mary Clyne, Mohawk, NY; Victor Coolidge, Bethel; Eva Crumpton, Oxford; John Crumpton, Oxford; Freda Davis, Bethel; David Diano, LaCanada, CA; Marie Dudley, Alexander; John Dudley, Alexander; Christopher Duncan,

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This issue honors the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Society. Some of the highlights are outlined for each year, but much more happened during those years than space permits. Volunteers have made much of this progress possible and I would like to thank them for all their good work. We have also had good Boards of Trustees and committees throughout the years and a dedicated staff. The broad program of Society activities has attracted many members and made it one of the leading organizations of its type in the State.

Now we face the challenge of finding better space for our collections, exhibits, research, and other programs. It will be up to all of us to see that opportunities are found to build on what has happened over the past three decades to ensure an even brighter future for the Society.

Charles F. Raymond

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 6 January 1996, Lillian C. Bartlett, Bethel, Senior Member

Died, 25 January 1996, Martha Von Zintl, Bethel, Life Member

Died, 2 February 1996, Mervin Fairbanks, Paris, Senior Member

Died, 24 March 1996, Olive A. Head, West Bethel, Life Member

Died, 23 April 1996, Evaline Kimball, Bethel, Sustaining Member

Died, 24 April 1996, Ellen Coffin, Norway, Sustaining Member

Died, 15 May 1996, James Dock, Beaverton, Oregon, Sustaining Member

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Barbara I. Mahler, Bethel

(Highlights, continued from page 1)

Society hosts Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums annual meeting

Eva Bean Research Room dedicated during tenth anniversary festivities

Historic marker system initiated, first placed at Bartlett Cemetery

Annual professional audit established

Booklet, *Made in Bethel* published

1977--Society offers courses in history, genealogy, and crafts for the first time

Society hosts volunteer workshops sponsored by the American Association of Museums

First Dr. Moses Mason Award given for best student essay in local history

Broad Street Historic District named to the National Register

Booklet, *Bethel's Broad Street* published

1978--Constitution revised to add trustees and define other positions

Broad Street Historic District dedicated by Senator Edmund S. Muskie

(continued on page 8)

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each (Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)
Booklets (The Family Farm, Made in Bethel) 75 cents each
Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1
Molly Ockett \$2
Maps and Atlases
1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2
1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50

T-Shirts
Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8
Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Post Cards: Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cent each
Tote Bags (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50
Placemat, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

Books
Carrie Wight, *A History of Newry* \$5
Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad* \$20
Bethel, *Maine Cemeteries* \$9.50
Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95
Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95
Crosby, *From an Old Leather Trunk* \$5
Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95
Maine the Pine State: *From Prehistory to the Present* \$29.95
Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$14.99
Wight, *Wild River Wilderness* \$5
Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$7.50
Maine in the Early Republic \$29.95
Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$22.95
Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95
Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5
Eva Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50
Bennett, *Oxford County Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture* \$18
Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine, 1768-1890* \$45
Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* Quality Paperback \$29.95
Cloth \$39.95

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.

(Highlights, continued from page 3)

Society receives news of endowment of \$250,000 from the William Bingham II Trust for Charity to be received over the next five years
1979--Society cookbook published
Annual fund campaign begun
Historical Society calendar published for the first time
1980--Society sponsors Oxford County Historic Resource Survey with grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission
First Sudbury Canada Days held
A.D. Shattuck's "Sunset at Bethel" on exhibit for summer, loaned by Vassar College
Society Director selected for Seminar for Historical Administration at Colonial Williamsburg
Society membership hits 400 level for first time
Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show established
Dr. Moses Mason Birthday Party held for first time
Summer house moved to the Society's grounds
1981--First film series held with the support of the Maine Humanities Council
W.B. Lapham's *History of Bethel* reprinted
Indian Raid '81 bicentenary and Indian Raid Special Edition published
New editions of *Molly Ockett* and *Dr. Moses Mason and His House* published
Summer house stationery offered for the first time
1982--Gift of Twitchell folk art portraits to the Society
Adoption of personnel and collections policies
Museum Assessment Program I grant
Gift of R.P. Tolman's portrait of Dr. Mason to the Society
1983--Society loans Dr. Mason portrait and other artifacts to the "Maine at Statehood" exhibit at Bowdoin College, Colby College, and other locations throughout the State
Society membership passes 500 level
1984--"Grass Roots" history course offered to Telstar High School students for first time
1880 Atlas maps of Bethel reprinted
"Adams Chronicles" film series
Twitchell Portraits exhibit
Martha Fifield Wilkins exhibit
1985--Publication of Thomas Hubka's *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, which included several Society photographs
Museum Assessment Program II grant received
Publication of Chester Harding exhibit catalog by the National Portrait Gallery containing photographs of the Mason portraits
"Maine at Statehood" exhibit
Conference on Rural Reform hosted by the Society
"A Good Stand of Buildings" exhibit
"Early Peoples of Northern Maine" exhibit
"William Rogers Chapman, 1855-1935" exhibit
Society membership tops 600
1986--Publication of a new and expanded edition of Eva Bean's *East Bethel Road*
Long-Range Planning Committee formed
New railroad stationery offered for the first time
New Society brochure published
Eight Honorary members added to Society rolls
1987--Bequest received to establish Austin F. Twitchell Fund to benefit collections
Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award established; Floribel Haines first recipient

Publication of *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture* by Curator of Collections Randall Bennett

Society sponsors oral history workshop with Northeast Folklore Archives of the University of Maine

Society receives Harry W. Rowe Award from the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums for "an outstanding contribution to state and local history"

Society receives a Preservation Award from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Society membership exceeds 700 for first time

1988--Fifty years of the Norway Advertiser-Democrat on microfilm added to Society collections

Maine Old Cemetery Records added to Society collections

Sudie Vachon receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

Society membership tops 800

1989--Microfilm cabinet donated to the Society in honor of E. Louise Lincoln by her family

Seven Honorary members added to Society rolls

Society sponsors Norumbega project with Bethel Library

Barbara Herrick Brown receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

Society publishes *Bethel, Maine Cemeteries*

1990--Persis Post receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

Grant received from the William Bingham II Trust for Charity and the Bingham Betterment Fund to publish an illustrated history of Bethel

1991--Society membership tops 900

Constitution and By-Laws revised

Second edition of Molly Ockett booklet published

Society publishes *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* by R. H. Bennett, Curator of Collections

Helen Morton receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

Hall bequest of \$20,000 received, Hall Memorial Special Projects Fund established

1992--First Hall Memorial Lecture held featuring Sarah McMahon of Bowdoin College

Margaret Herrick Oakes Book Fund established with \$1000 bequest

Agnes Haines Memorial Fund established to fund local history and genealogical materials

Society commended by the American Association for State and Local History for "an outstanding record of publication in local and regional history"

Elizabeth Mason Carter receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

1993--Kilgore family reunion held for first time

Society receives challenge grant from the Bingham Betterment Fund to publish book on Richardson Lakes region

Society membership exceeds 1000 for first time

Society establishes Preservation Award

First Fourth of July brass band concert and community picnic

Rosalind Chapman receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

New walking and driving tour brochures produced

1994--Three honorary members added to Society rolls

Society sponsors genealogical seminar

Society hosts Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation annual meeting

Society receives chair that once belonged to William Bingham II

Margaret Joy Tibbetts receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

1995--China Exhibit honoring Annie Gould

Rodney and Geraldine Howe receive Noll Volunteer Service Award

Maine Museum Day held for first time

1996--Society receives bequest of inlaid table from Robert Silver

The Richardson Lakes: Jewels in the Rangeley Chain published



Honored during National Historic Preservation Week with the Society's 1996 Preservation Award were (left to right) Society life member Scott Oldakowski for his work on the Stiles house, Patricia Thurston for her role in restoring the John Philbrook house to its former grandeur, and John Head, representing the Bethel Rotary Club, which made possible the restoration of the former lower Main Street horse watering tub now on the Bethel Common. Looking on is the chairman of the Society's Preservation Committee Kenneth Bohr, who made the presentations.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the Oxford County Advertiser, 9 July 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

The soldier who rose to the highest rank of any son of old Oxford County was Maj. Gen. Cuvier Grover.

He was the son of Dr. John Grover and was born at Bethel, Maine, July 24, 1829, and graduated at the U.S. Military Academy in July 1850. He entered the Regular Army as brevet 2d Lieut. of Artillery, and in September of the same year he was promoted to 2d Lieut. In March 1855 he was 1st Lieut. of Infantry and in September 1858 he was promoted to Capt. In August 1863 he was commissioned as Major and in July 1866 as Lieut. Col. These were all Regular Army appointments. His service prior to the war were on the frontier. He was in the Northern Pacific Railroad Exploration in 1853-4 and the Utah Expedition in 1857-8.

The breaking out of the war found him a captain of the 10th Infantry which was stationed in New Mexico and during the latter part of the year his Regt. was ordered North and in 1862 he was appointed a Brig. Gen'l of Vols. and given the command of Gen. Hooker's Old Brigade when that officer was promoted to command of a Division. Bred to the profession of arms he was a thorough soldier in every respect. Col. A.S. Austin, our present Clerk of Courts,

(continued on page 6)

who served on Hooker's staff during the peninsular campaign and the first invasion of the North by Lee's Army, and who knows Gen. Grover well, says that he was one of the bravest men he ever saw under fire, and that he seemed to be impressed not so much with attaining military glory for himself as many of our officers were, as with the idea that the Rebellion should be put down, regardless of who might gain the glory. He was always ready to go wherever he was ordered regardless of consequences to himself. The commands of his superior were implicitly obeyed and on this account on two or three occasions his command received a repulse by his not being properly supported. General Edwards says that full justice has never been done this gallant officer. I regret that I am not in possession of but very few of those little incidents connected with his military history which go so far toward embellishing and making attractive and readable a newspaper sketch of this kind, but I am in possession of enough of his life and character, however, to demonstrate his high and soldierly qualities, and that the duty which had felt he owed his country was fully and thoroughly performed. His services were such as entitle him to rank among the first of Maine's able Generals and to the lasting gratitude of the people of our state. He would not have been assigned to the command of Gen. Hooker's Old Brigade had he not been an officer of real worth and promise and when the enemy was met in deadly conflict at the Battle of Williamsburg.

"Fighting Joe" Hooker had reason to be thankful that the command of the Brigade had been given to anyone so worthy. In this engagement, Hooker's troops fought with a much larger force of the enemy and might have been disastrously beaten but for the timely arrival of Gen. Berry with his Brigade of Maine and Michigan troops of Gen. Phil Kearney's Division which had marched twelve miles from Yorktown to their succor.

"Bring up the band! Play Yankee Doodle or anything but make some noise," said Gen. Heintleman with his peculiar nasal twang, when the reinforcements arrived, and as the inspiring strains of music floated out on the air, loud hurrahs went up from the scene of conflict as Gen. Berry pushed to the front and the field was won.

Gen. Hooker in his report of the battle says, "History will not be believed when it is told that the noble officers and men of my Division were permitted to carry on this unequal struggle from morning until night unaided in the presence of more than 30,000 of their countrymen with arms in their hands." Nevertheless it is true.

After serving through the peninsula campaign with great credit to himself, he was among the first of the Potomac army with his Brigade to reinforce Gen. Pope who was being whipped out all along the line. Many of the commanders of McClellan's army didn't care to aid Pope as had the latter been successful Little Mac would have been completely eclipsed by this "upstart Western office with headquarters in the saddle." Fitz-John Porter has suffered in disgrace till his whitened locks and persistent efforts softened hostility and won him a hearing and the sentence of the military court which sent him out of the army dishonored for his inactivity at the Second Bull Run battle has been annulled by an act of Congress, restoring him to his rank.

Gen. Cuvier Grover loved his country better than the

reputation and glory of any man and promptly moved forward at command as before to do his duty. No military or any other court would ever try him for disobedience of orders. This characteristic of promptly obeying orders makes the popular military leader.

"Theirs not to reason why

Theirs but to do and die."

Accordingly, we find him waiting for the word of command at the Second Bull Run.

The graves and bones of the dead and the weather beaten fragments of that disastrous conflict reminded the men that they were on the battlefield of Bull Run. Grover's Brigade and took the position assigned it upon the slope of a slope of a hill to support a batter of Gen. Sigel's Division. No infantry was visible in any direction although the land was open and for half a mile objects were readily seen. At four o'clock in the afternoon of the day the enemy opened upon the battery with solid shots, but instead of replying the drivers mounted their horses and ingloriously fled. Capt. Austin of Hooker's staff rode up and with the order to advance and engage the enemy. "Where are my supports?" wisely inquired the hero. "They are coming," was the reply.

"Fix bayonet."

Inspired by this order as it passed through the different companies the enthusiasm of the men rose to the highest pitch, and placing himself in front of his line the brave Grover led his men to battle. Soon the rebel's skirmishes were encountered and driven upon a reserved force behind the bank of an unfinished railroad. Detachments from five Brigades in three lines deep under the Rebel's Gen. Ewell were massed behind his bank to resist the charge of Grover's men, and volley upon volley were poured into our brave boys at short range. They passed on over the bodies of the dead and wounded and with cheers they gained the embankment and passed over it breaking the first line of the enemy. Gen. Grover's horse was shot under him as his men gained the bank, but placing his hat upon the point of his sword he waved it aloft and gallantly led his command on foot.

The second line was broken and victory was almost in their grasp when the third line rose up and delivered a destructive fire into their advancing ranks. Now the supports were needed, but they did not come back to its first position the Brigade was forced reluctantly to retire. Nearly one half of Grover's command in this charge were killed and wounded. The Rebels pursued no farther than the edge of the woods, where the trees were seen apparently fringed with the "stars and bars." An Artillery Gen. thought it would be a good mark for his howitzers, and he ordered a batter commander to "bring up the shockasses" and open fire. The commander promptly obeyed the order when the rounds of canister quickly caused the Rebels to disappear.

BOOK NOTES

The following publications are available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. Include \$4 postage/handling per order.

A Biographical Dictionary, Containing A Brief Account of the First Settlers, and Other Eminent Characters Among the Magistrates, Ministers, Literary and Worthy Men, in New England, by John Eliot, D.D. Reprint of 1809 edition,

517 pages, new index, paper, \$32.50. These alphabetically arranged sketches are short, but informative, providing significant biographical data of important New England figures.

History of St. Albans, Maine by Gladys M. Bigelow and Ruth M. Knowles. 1995, 418 pages, illus., maps, bibl., paper, \$28.50. This book chronicles the history of this Somerset County town from its earliest days to the 1980s.

Marriage Notices from the Maine Farmer by Elizabeth Keene Young and Benjamin Lewis Keene. 1995, 489 pages, append., paper, \$35. An alphabetical listing of men and women whose marriage notices were published for nearly a century in this leading agricultural newspaper, covering the entire state, but focusing primarily on Kennebec County. Also included here are minister's names, date and place of the wedding, and father's name if known.

A Medical Miscellany for Genealogists by Dr. Jeanette L. Jerger. 1995, 178 pages, illus., bibl., paper, \$17.50. Prepared for genealogists wishing to know medical terms discovered during research, this indispensable book contains alphabetical listings and cross reference for a wide variety of diseases.

Westbrook, Maine, Cemeteries; Plus the Surrounding Towns of Cumberland, Falmouth, Gorham, Portland & Windham by Karen Sherman Ketover. 1996, 447 pages, maps, index, paper, \$33. This book contains a wealth of cemetery data from 108 family, church and public cemeteries in Cumberland County.

Vital Records of Dover, New Hampshire 1686-1850, Reprint of 1894 edition, 305 pages, index, paper, \$20. Dover, one of the first towns established in New Hampshire, is important to genealogists because so many New Englanders can trace their origins there.

Philip Towle, Hampton, New Hampshire: His English Origins and Some American Descendants by William Haslet Jones. 1995, 101 pages, maps, bibl., append., index, paper, \$12. This book traces the ancestry of Philip Towle in England and the first six generations of his family in New England using a wide variety of records.

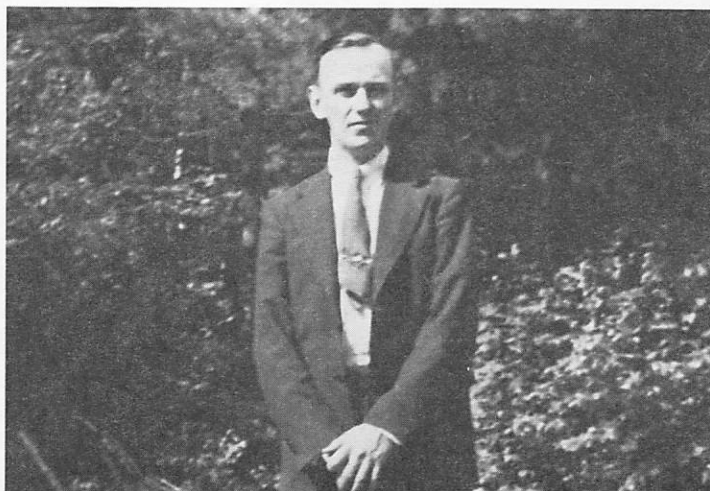
REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by L.E. Davis

The next episode in our family and business life that was of particular importance was the disastrous fire which occurred on Saturday, May 20, 1944 in the afternoon.

We had been running the planing mill pretty steadily for the past two or three weeks and were working Saturday forenoon to keep up with shipping orders. When we shut down on this particular Saturday forenoon, everything seemed to be as usual, but it was very hot with a strong southwest wind. Kathryn was living at home with us but had gone to Lewiston for the day. Right after dinner, Marie took the car and went to Rumford and I went to the Eames farm down Middle Intervale road to spot a division line. I got home about 4:30 and Marie came about 5:30 and when we arrived the planer mill, our house and barn, two big lumber storage sheds, the truck garage and about 800 thousand board feet of sawed lumber between the mill and house were completely burned down and the fire went up through the woods northeast of the house for about a mile,



Robert Silver, ca. 1945

MEMBER PROFILE

Robert M. Silver was born in Rumford on March 28, 1905, the son of Albert H. and Mary Martin Silver. He attended Rumford schools and graduated from Stephen's High School in 1924. A self-employed carpenter, he was a member of the Rumford Point Congregational Church and the Rumford Point Men's Club. He married first Rose Woods who died in 1931; in 1941 he married Charlotte Sawin, who died in 1994. He died on December 18, 1995 and was survived by one son Martin of Norway.

Mr. Silver was long a member of the Bethel Historical Society and was a very generous donor of photographs and artifacts. In his will, he donated a handsome inlaid table made by his grandfather, George Turner Silver (1843-1925). It is now in a place of honor in the Dr. Moses Mason House.

(Reflections)

destroying a lot of pine timber on our home lot, the wood lot of Clyde Brooks and the pasture lot on the Herman Mason farm which I owned at the time. The local fireman, the Maine Forestry Service and local volunteers did a wonderful job of controlling it within the area that they did, what with the strong, hot, dry wind that was blowing all day. They succeeded in stopping it at the road that leads up to the old Dana Hall farm, now owned by Bruce and Rebecca Bailey.

Some of the neighbors got into the house and saved the office files and desk, our table radio, one rifle and shotgun that was in the office, a glass dish cabinet full of dishes and the G.E. refrigerator which was in the kitchen. The only other item that was saved was the library table that we bought when we started keeping house in Portsmouth, NH.

Quite a few other things were carried outdoors on to the lawn but the fire was so hot that they were also destroyed. The only clothes any of us had were what we were wearing. I had two cows at the time which were out in the pasture. Someone carried into the pasture a calf which was in the barn and Burton Abbott had borrowed a pair of chestnut horses which I had, so we lost no animals in the barn.

(continued on page 8)

(Reflections, continued from page 7)

The lumber in the field was 90% owned and paid for by the Burritt Lumber Sales Co. of Bridgeport, CT and they were carrying insurance on it for its full value which was fortunate. There was no insurance on the planing mill or lumber storage sheds but a fair amount on the house, barn and furniture. There was a pretty big loss on the trees on Clyde Brooks' and my wood lots, but we cut and salvaged all the ones which were large enough for sawlogs as the trunks on the trees didn't get burned enough to spoil them.

(to be continued in the next issue)

(Membership List, continued from page 3)

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EDITOR'S CORNER

During the observance of the Society's thirtieth anniversary of its founding, there was discussion of who were still alive of the eighteen men and women who founded the organization in the Bethel Library in May 1966. We still have several including Margaret Carter Bean, Elizabeth Mason Carter, Rosalind Chapman, Floribel Haines, Geraldine Howe, and Vance and Janet Richardson. As we face the future, it is always important to remember these people and those who have died for their role in creating the organization we enjoy today.

SRH



Another oral history night was held at the May monthly meeting with ten participants in World War II recalling details. Shown above (left to right) are Albert Judkins, Willard Wight, Allan Fraser, Richard Hosterman, Gwyneth Bohr, Edmond Vachon, Avery Angevine, Earlon Paine, and Kenneth Bohr. Not appearing in the photo was Robert Keniston.

MT; Charles Hamlin, Longmeadow, MA; Kathryn Hamlin, Longmeadow, MA; Marilyn Hammel, Tampa, FL; Richard Harding, Bethel; Fred Hayden, Bethel; Clayton Heath, Norway; Helen Heath, Norway; Edward Hitchcock, Bethel; Elizabeth Hitchcock, Bethel; Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel; Richard Hoeh, Bethel; Kathleen Holden, West Paris; Lucille Holman, Dixfield; Lyman Holman, Dixfield; Frank Houghton, Winter Park, FL; Alfred Howard, Manchester; Patricia Hughes, Rumford Point; Marita Hunton, Norway; Jean Hutchins, Bethel; Lee Hutchins, Bethel; Virginia Hutchins, Bethel; Irene Hutchinson, Dixfield; Douglas Hutchinson; Vernon Ingraham, Marian, MA; Marion Irely, Toledo, OH; Mildred Jackson, Bethel; John Jacobsen, Jr., New York, NY; Eleanor Johnson, Portland; Dr. Harold Jones, Raymond; Frances Jordan, Poland; Dene Kaufner, Redding, CA; Earlon Keniston, Bethel; Mary Keniston, Bethel; Elizabeth Kilgore, Interlocken, FL; Alice Kimball, Bethel; Carroll Kimball, Frederickton, New Brunswick; Herbert Kittredge, Hanover; Ruth Kittredge, Hanover; Thelma Knight, Montpelier, VT; Mary Kort, Minocqua, WI; Edith Lawrence, Portland; Harold Lawrence, Portland; Lois Leavitt, Gorham, NH; Reuell Leavitt, Gorham, NH; Peter Lenz, Norway; Mary Little, Presque Isle; James Locke, Topeka, KS; Stanley Lord, Bethel; Alfred Lovejoy, Matlacha, FL; Mary Lovejoy, West Paris; Dr. Charles Lufkin, Gulf Breeze, FL; Mary March, Bridgton; Helen Mason, Springvale; Sidney Mason, Springvale; Shirley Matero, South Paris; Wildo Matero, South Paris; Robert McCrea, Meriden, CT; Marna McGinniss, Bethel; Paul McMahon, Middletown, RI; Elizabeth Mills, Bethel; Robert Mills, Bethel; Caroline Merrill, Bethel; Frederick Milton, Oakdale, MA; Penelope Milton, Oakdale, MA; Esther Mitchell, Boothbay; Patricia Moore, Fresno, CA; Grace Morrill, Bethel; Dorothy Mulroy, Wellesley, MA; Carol Neilsen, Bethel; John Nowlin, Bethel; Yvonne Nowlin, Bethel; Florence O'Connor, West Paris; Beverly Onofrio, Central Falls, RI; Ted Orino, Rumford; Mansfield Packard, South Paris; Gilman Page, Frenchville; Winifred Page, Frenchville; Earlon Paine, Bethel; Mary Paine, Bethel; Anne Palmer, Waban, MA; Yvonne Pendleton, Sunnyvale, CA; Marian Perkins, Unity; Eunice Powell, Hanover; Harold Powell, Hanover; Ruth Pryor, Littleton, NH; Joan Putnam,

(continued on page 10)

Bethel; Norman Putnam, Bethel; Mildred Rackcliffe, Buckfield; Avis Rand, Bridgton; Judith Ray, Austin, TX; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel; Henry Robertson, Bethel; Adelaide Robinson, Yarmouthport, MA; Lillian Rose, Portsmouth, NH; Joan Rundle, Westport, CT; Edith Russell, Brownfield; Ruth Salo, South Paris; Charles Sherman, Pottersville, CA; Margaret Sibert, Vineyard Haven, MA; Ruth Silver, Bethel; Pauline Smith, Bethel; Ruth Sorofman, Rochelle, GA; Warren Stearns, Hanover; Robert Stoddard, Merrimack, NH; Dexter Stowell, Bethel; Janet Stowell, Bethel; Alta Sturgis, South Portland; Joan Swallow, St. Johnsbury, VT; Glenn Swan, Mexico; Martha Sweatt, Bethel; Eunice Sysko, Bethel; Sigmund Sysko, Bethel; Myra Taranto, Waltham, MA; Paul Taylor, Nashua, NY; Dr. Mary Telfer, PA; Richard Thek, Seaford, DE; Clara Thurston, North Fryeburg; Jane Torrence, Huntington Beach, CA; Janice Twitchell, Haddonfield, NJ; Robert Twitchell, Haddonfield, NJ; Frances Usenik, Washington, DC; Mary Valentine, Bethel; Geraldine Vangsness, Wanamingo, MN; Marguerite Varney, Livermore; Shirley Welch, Brownfield; Barbara Wheeler, Bethel; Margaret Wheeler, Bethel; Thomas Wheeler, Bethel; Maynard White, Haverhill, MA; Bernard Wideman, North Berwick; Doris Wilkins, Clearwater, FL; Marie Witter, Bethel; Robert Young, Essex, MA

Student

Jeff Angevine, Bethel; Jessica Coolidge, Bethel; Victoria Coolidge, Bethel; Jarrod Crockett, Locke Mills; Justin Gilbert, Bethel; Erica Gunderson, Bethel; Christopher Hart, Bangor; Eiranne Hart, Bangor; Alyssa Howe, Bethel; Rebekah Howe, Bethel; Eli Mann, Bethel; Cassie Mason, Bethel; Erin Murphy, Bethel; William Murphy, Bethel; Kate Nickerson, Bethel; Sarah Vedella, Bethel; Jessie Wight, Bethel; Justin Wight, Bethel

Individual Preference

Donald Bennett, Bethel; Katherine Bennett, Bethel; Michael Klotzer, Zurich, Switzerland; Mildred McLain, Gilead; Jean Ness, Auburn; Norman Ness, Jr., Auburn; Olive Risco, Bryant Pond; Henry Stewart, Boston; Patricia Stewart, Boston; Weld Historical Society, Weld; Richard Wiley, Jr., Laconia, NH

"MR. AND MRS. CHUCK"

by Edith K. Howe

Editor's Note: Edith K. Howe (1894-1975) was a charter member of the Bethel Historical Society. This memoir has been edited for greater clarity and to fit space considerations.

A number of years ago [probably in the late 1930s], the children in our neighborhood in East Bethel found three baby woodchucks on the intervale [the farmland nearest the Androscoggin River]. The babies were hungry; their mother had been killed a few days before. The Hastings children kept one, the Kimballs another; I have forgotten who had the third, but that need not concern us. The first two grew and became great pets. "Chucky" Hastings got into the habit of roaming all over the neighborhood to find good things to eat. I would hear a noise on the back porch and there he would stand until I gave him something to eat--apples, crackers, cookies, bread, corn bread, cold boiled potatoes, pie crust, any edible thing went and lots of it.



"Mrs. Chucky" poses on the porch of the Howe house at East Bethel, ca. 1940

Suddenly I discovered that he had moved over to our house to live. He had dug a home in the corner of the knoll where the house stood. His "front door" overlooked the road, the pond, and the Hastings' driveway. He didn't like as much attention as the small neighborhood children gave him. Grass and leaves did not suit him for his bed; he wanted something different.

As I was making out the butter one day, I looked out of the window just in time to see a curious sight. Chucky had a long piece of brown paper by one corner and he was trying to get in a straight line from the shed to his hole, about seventy-five feet away. As the paper was about a foot and a half wide and over six feet long and covering up his eyes, he was having troubles. He finally made it and disappeared through his "front door." The "back door" was only a small hole quite apart from the other, partially hidden under some bushes.

In a few minutes I saw him going back toward the shed. I hurriedly crumpled up some newspapers and threw them into the wood shed and closed the door softly. When I heard the rustle of papers, I peeked out and saw a most curious sight. He sat up and with both front paws was trying to get a whole sheet of newsprint into his mouth or into a ball so that he could carry it. When it finally suited him, he started out under the wall toward his home again. The ball of paper was about six inches across and again he could not see so he zigged and zagged across the yard to his hole. He made a number of trips and took all the paper I had put out for him. That was early in September, but as he was much fatter than his wild relatives he went to bed for the winter by the end of the month.

About the middle of April, I heard my back screen door open and close several times. I looked out and it was "Chucky." He had put his toes under the edge of the door so that it opened just a few inches and slammed back. I took out some bread, but he left it and ate some old dead grass before going back to bed. The next day he was back and ate a little. Soon he was just as big as a "pig" as the summer before. This went on for several weeks. Then I noticed that the woodchuck who came to the door seemed to be timid and ran off before I could give it food. I spoke of it one night and my children simply said, "Oh Chuck, got driven off," they said. "He is over in the cattle pass [at the Hastings farm], digging himself a new hole between the rocks," they added. "That is Mrs. Chucky, the Kimball's woodchuck; she drove him out of his hole," they assured

me. It was a female chuck and she grew even tamer than "Chucky" ever was.

We thought she must have a family, but we had no way of knowing only to wait and see. One day I had been to a farm Bureau meeting and came home after something I had forgotten. As I came up the driveway, I saw "Mrs. Chucky" coming around the house. I paid no attention until I noticed the grass moving behind her. I looked then called the children. They came on the run; there were six little ones about the size of kittens a few weeks old. She did not want us to get near them and hurried them over to the other side of the rocks used to fill the hollow when the road was rebuilt. She had dug a hole between the rocks very handy to my son Rodney's factory beans and also by going through the culvert under the road, there was plenty of available clover just coming up. I was afraid she would ruin the beans so I took milk over to her twice a day and she came up to the house often for handouts. One would hardly believe she could eat so much. At one time she ate two slices of home-made bread, three cold boiled potatoes, a piece of pie crust and then asked for more by trying to get into the house to see what more she could find.

Other children in the neighborhood tried to catch the little ones, but they didn't try many times for Mrs. Chucky was savage and woe to heels and ankles of anyone within reach. Some times I would see three or four boys perched on fence posts, or on top of the car or on the hay rack--anywhere to get out of reach for she nipped any and all. As soon as the babies were half grown, they left home into nearby gardens where their lives were in danger and soon they were no more. "Mrs. Chucky" dug a new hole under the summer kitchen in the sand where the water pipe went to the barn and the digging was easy.

Being there she was a pest. If she could get in, she would, and I had to keep all doors fastened or latched or in she would come sniffing to see what smelled good. I was away for two weeks and her handouts were mostly dry bread or boiled potatoes. The day I came home I really cooked, white bread, cake, cookies, doughnuts, and some dark bread too. "Mrs. Chucky" went the rounds, every door

was tried and tried; she sniffed and sniffed at every one. She would get a toe under the edge of each of them and pull and the door would bang. Then on to the next one. I had every one fastened, but I had to get wood and in the woodshed I remembered I was supposed to feed the livestock in the barn. I hurried, but when I came in I heard a crash in the pantry and there was "Mrs. Chucky" beside the cookie can eating crumbs. Luckily I had not yet filled it. By giving her a burned cookie, I tolled her outdoors again and fed her more burned ones. Then I washed cans and put the food away so she could not smell it so plainly.

That fall she went to sleep under the summer kitchen early in September, and it was here that her next family of four was born the next spring. She was larger than ever and just as big a pest around the house as the year before, but her babies never became tame. If she heard a noise, she whistled and they disappeared under the porch. They would play on the porches, but never ate from our hands as she did. I took several pictures of her, but none of her offspring. She still drank all the milk given her and she was always around at milking time every day, but she never taught her young to drink. All wandered all over the place and out to the edge of the bank beyond the barn. Holes were dug here and there, but not one was lived in except one "Mrs. Chucky" dug under the hen house to hide in.

She got so fat that in August she just wandered around tasting things but not eating much; the eighteenth of August was the last day we saw her that year. The fourteenth of the next April she appeared again on the back porch and seemed glad to see me and to eat something. I vowed that I would not feed her as much another year as she had moved with her babies to the hole under the hen house. I never called her and the babies ranged more and more out in the clover. But one day I was out in the yard talking to someone and I saw her sitting up looking my way when all of a sudden she started on the run for the house. I ran too and brought out a dish of boiled potatoes and put them out by the hen house so as to keep her as far away as possible. My best intentions did not work since each day she came and begged for food and of course I fed her.

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Poor "Mrs. Chucky" was too tame and did not know about dogs. We had none and there were none next door, but one day our son and wife came with their dog Queenie into the yard. "Mrs. Chucky" thought she could drive Queenie away. Queenie had killed seventeen woodchucks the previous summer and before we could prevent it, she pounced on "Mrs. Chucky." We made her drop the woodchuck who went under the porch and then put her head out and raged at Queenie. How her teeth chattered. Finally she backed from sight. We hoped she was not too badly hurt, but the next day she did not come out until nearly noon and then she could not walk as her back was broken. She just dragged herself. I fed her and while she ate the boys put her out of her misery. "Mr. Chucky" was killed by a dog before "Mrs. Chucky" and I doubt if any of their offspring survived very long.

Dr. Sherman Greenleaf [Bethel veterinarian] had seen "Mrs. Chucky" as he doctored our cattle and wanted some pictures of her. My husband John took the three prints we had up to Bethel Village and told the doctor that he could have his pick of them and he took them all. As I had misplaced the negatives, I did not have any pictures of her, but recently they came to light and I had them reprinted.

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The life of longtime museum guide Mildred Thomas (1910-1995) was celebrated in a special memorial service at the Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room on June 1. Shown above (left to right) are Rev. Brendon Bass, who conducted the service, Judith Haskell, head of the Society's Museum Committee and a close friend, and members of her family, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bailey.

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